

Serial No. 10/592,953

Attorney Docket No. 24-038-TN

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a pharmaceutical composition comprising a drug-containing layer, a first functional layer provided to one side of the drug-containing layer either directly or via an intermediate layer, and a second functional layer provided to the other side of the drug-containing layer either directly or via an intermediate layer, wherein the producing method comprises the following ~~steps (a), (b) and (c)~~:

(a) ~~a step of~~ preparing a first intermediate comprising a first drug-containing layer containing a thermoplastic polymer as a base and a first functional layer provided to one side of the first drug-containing layer either directly or via an intermediate layer, with the other side of the first drug-containing layer being exposed to air;

(b) ~~a step of~~ preparing a second intermediate layer comprising a second drug-containing layer containing a thermoplastic polymer as a base and a second functional layer provided to one side of the second drug-containing layer either directly or via an intermediate layer, with the other side of the second drug-containing layer being exposed to air; and

(c) ~~a step of~~ heat-fusing the first drug-containing layer of the first intermediate layer with the second drug-containing layer of the second intermediate layer.

2. (Original) The producing method according to Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is an orally administered pharmaceutical composition, and the thermoplastic polymer is a thermoplastic edible polymer.

3. (Original) The producing method according to Claim 2, wherein the thermoplastic edible polymer is one or two or more thermoplastic edible polymers selected from the group

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consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone, vinylpyrrolidone-vinyl acetate copolymer and polyvinyl acetate.

4. (Original) The producing method according to Claim 2 or 3, wherein the first functional layer and/or second functional layer are water-swellaable gel-forming layers.

5. (New) The producing method according to Claim 2, wherein the thermoplastic edible polymer is one or two thermoplastic edible polymers selected from the group consisting of vinylpyrrolidone-vinyl acetate copolymer and polyvinyl acetate.

6. (New) The producing method according to Claim 1, wherein the heat-fusing is conducted at a temperature of 60° to 150°C.

7. (New) The producing method according to Claim 1, wherein the heat-fusing is conducted at a pressure of 0.1 kgf/cm² or more.

8. (New) The producing method according to Claim 1, wherein treatment time of the heat-fusing is 0.1 to 5 seconds.